

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether Government undertaken any study on the wastage of time and resources due to this; and

(c) if so, the action plan prepared by Government to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a)-to (c) Yes, Sir. During peak hours aircrafts have to wait for take-off and landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai.

The steps taken to solve this problem are as follows:

- (i) New high speed exit taxiways at Delhi and Mumbai airport have been constructed and few more are under construction. A parallel taxi-track has been constructed at Delhi airport by which runway occupancy time has been reduced considerably.
- (ii) Simultaneous use of both runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports has started during the traffic congestion period.
- (iii) Improved ATC procedures have been implemented.
- (iv) Clearance Delivery Position has been established at Mumbai and Delhi airports.
- (v) Restriction on general aviation aircraft movement during peak period at Delhi and Mumbai airport has been imposed.
- (vi) ATC Automation System at Delhi and Mumbai is under upgradation.
- (vii) Surface Movement Radar has been installed and in operation at Delhi airport.
- (viii) Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System is under installation at Delhi and under planning for Mumbai airport.

#### **Direct flights to Gaya**

744. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to upgrade Gaya airport to international standard in view of Gaya being a very important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists countries;

(b) whether there is any plan to have direct flights to Gaya from Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing; and

(c) why there are no domestic flights from Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata to Gaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Gaya airport has been developed for operation of AB-320 type of aircrafts. A new Integrated Terminal Building with all modern amenities and of international standard has been constructed to accommodate 500 passengers. The work of expansion of apron and isolation bay is nearing completion.

(b) Selection of routes for operation of flights is decided by the airlines. So far no airlines has indicated its intention for international operations from Gaya to Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing.

(c) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Gaya depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. However, Indian Airlines (INDIAN) currently links Gaya with Kolkata on a once weekly basis, on the domestic leg of its Kolkata-Gaya-Yangon v. v. service.

#### **New private sector Airports in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh**

745. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more new airports in the private sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposal is pending in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no specific proposal with the Government for setting up new airports in the private sector in the States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.